

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MC-02 NIC-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 NEA-09 ARA-06 /104 W
----- 022726

P R 201817Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9319

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 0658

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, ML, UV

SUBJECT: MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE

1. I CALLED ON PRESIDENT LAMIZANA AT HIS REQUEST AFTERNOON MARCH 20. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED INFORMATION TO THE EFFECT THAT MALI WAS IN PROCESS OF PURCHASING ONE C-130, SEVERAL HELICOPTERS AND SOME 400 SUBMACHINE GUNS IN THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID HE WANTED TO BRING THIS INFORMATION TO MY ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE HE KNEW U.S. POLICY WAS TO REMAIN NEUTRAL IN MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE. HE ADDED THAT MALIANS WERE APPARENTLY CLAIMING THAT C-130 AND HELICOPTERS WERE TO BE USED FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN CONNECTION WITH DROUGHT BUT HE WAS SURE THAT, IN CONTEXT OF PRESENT BORDER SITUATION, USG WOULD NOT BE DECEIVED BY SUCH CLAIMS.

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2. I TOLD LAMIZANA THAT U.S. POLICY WAS INDEED ONE OF

NEUTRALITY IN CURRENT MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE AND THAT, ASSUMING C-130 WAS MILITARY AIRCRAFT, I COULD NOT BELIEVE THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD ALLOW EXPORT OF ITEMS PRESIDENT HAD MENTIONED. I TOLD HIM, HOWEVER, THAT I WOULD REPORT THE INFORMATION HE HAD GIVEN ME TO THE DEPARTMENT AND WOULD GIVE HIM A MORE COMPLETE REPLY ASAP.

3. LAMIZANA THEN SAID MALIANS HAD BEEN ABLE TO PROCURE SOME ARMS THROUGH SYRIA AND THAT THEY WERE NOW SHOPPING FOR MORE ARMS IN CUBA. UPPER VOLTA ON THE OTHER HAND WAS BEING TURNED DOWN EVERYWHERE. HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED SOME RIFLES FROM FRANCE WHICH WERE PART OF A CREDIT EXTENDED LAST YEAR BEFORE THE BORDER INCIDENTS, BUT THAT WAS ALL. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT ON MARCH 1, MALIAN FORCES HAD PENETRATED DEEP INTO VOLTAN TERRITORY NORTH OF GOROM-GOROM AND HAD ALMOST CAPTURED THE SUB-PREFECT OF THAT REGION. GOUV HAD NOW TAKEN MEASURES TO MAKE SURE SUCH INCURSIONS WOULD NOT HAPPEN AGAIN.

4. CONVERSATION LASTED 45 MINUTES AND WAS VERY CORDIAL. OTHER SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WILL BE REPORTED BY SEPTTEL. MEANWHILE I WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON FORMAL REPLY TO BE CONVEYED TO PRESIDENT. GRAHAM

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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